

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A drill bit for ~~drilling and, in particular,~~ rotary percussion drilling a ~~hole and, in particular,~~ a tap hole of a blast furnace, wherein the drill bit is comprised of a drill head including a plurality of hard-material or hard-metal inserts and a base body to be connected with a driving element ~~or the like~~ for actuating or powering the drill bit, said hard-material or hard-metal inserts being received in bores or openings of the drill head, wherein at least one hard-material or hard-metal insert, on its end received within the drill head, is at least partially designed with a curved or cambered surface contour that cooperates with a complementary, cambered or curved surface of the drill head and/or the base body, wherein the end of the hard-material or hard-metal insert, which is designed with said cambered or curved surface contour has external dimensions larger than those of the end of the hard-material or hard-metal insert projecting out of the drill head, and wherein the hard-material or hard-metal inserts are capable of being fitted into the bores or passage openings from the drill head side facing the base body of the drill bit, and that the drill head is capable of being connected with the base body upon reception of the hard-material or hard-metal inserts.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The ~~A~~-drill bit according to claim 1, wherein the cambered surface contour of the end of the hard-material or hard-metal insert is formed by a spherical surface or spherical layer.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The ~~A~~-drill bit according to claim 1, wherein the clear width of a bore or opening intended to receive the hard-material or hard-metal insert at least slightly exceeds the external dimensions of the end of the hard-material or hard-metal insert, to be received within the drill head, and that the hard-material or hard-metal

insert in its partial region received within the bore is surrounded by a sleeve whose external dimensions are adapted to the clear width of the bore of the drill head.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The A-drill bit according to claim 3, wherein the sleeve surrounding the hard-material or hard-metal insert is weldable with the material of the drill head.

Claim 5 (cancelled)

Claim 6 (currently amended): The A-drill bit according to claim 1 ~~5~~, wherein the drill head is dividedly designed, ~~particularly~~ on places or lines intended to each receive a plurality of hard-material or hard-metal inserts, and that the partial regions of the drill head upon reception of the hard-material or hard-metal inserts within the bores or openings are capable of being connected ~~and, in particular, welded~~ with one another and/or with the base body.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The A-drill bit according to claim 1 ~~5~~, wherein the bores or openings of the drill head have cross sections tapering towards the outer surface of the drill head and/or are designed to be offset or have widening cross sections in the end regions facing away from the outer surface of the drill head.

Claim 8 (new): The drill bit according to claim 1, wherein the drill head is capable of being welded with the base body upon reception of the hard-material or hard-metal insets.

Claim 9 (new): The drill bit according to claim 6, wherein that the partial regions of the drill head upon reception of the hard-material or hard-metal inserts within the bores or openings are capable of being welded with one another and/or with the base body.